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Vol. VI, No. 1. MARCH 1917. Prys 2d.

THE PYONEER

OV SIMPLIFYD SPELING.

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PUBLISHT BY THE

SIMPLIFYD SPELING SOSYETI,

44 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C. 1.

The Traid suplyd by

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32 Paternoster Row, E.C. 4.

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OUTLINE SCHEME FOR NEW READERS

The same sound is always represented by the same letter or letters: eni, jepardi, greev, leep (*not* any, jeopardy, grieve, leap).

Letters not pronounced are not written, and a consonant is not doubled to indicate a short vowel: dout, lam, aktiv, leter, nee (*not* doubt, lamb, active, letter, knee).

Wherever the *z* sound (as distinguished from the *s*) is heard it is written: tyz, praiz (*not* ties, praise).

C (except in *ch*), *q*, and *x* are not used.

VOWEL SOUNDS.

a: hat, glad.
e: meni, plezher (*not* many, pleasure).
i: wimen, bizi (*not* women, busy).
o: kot, hot.
u: but, bruther (*not* brother).
oo: book, poot (*not* put).

***aa:** raather, haaf (*not* rather, half).
ai: grait, kair (*not* great, care).
ee: eech, reseev (*not* each, receive).
au: aul (*not* all, awl).
œ: lœ, pœst (*not* low, post).
oo: troo (*not* true).
eu: teun, euloji (*not* tune, eulogy).
y: ryt, fyr (*not* right, fire).
oi: oil.
ou: found.

* Only one **a** is used before **r: arm, kar,** &c.

In considering the scheme remember that **no new letters are introduced,** though in English we have only **23** letters for representing over **40** sounds.

THE PYONEER
OV SIMPLIFYD SPELING.

VOL. VI, NO. 1. MARCH, 1917.

OUR ANEUAL MEETING.

AN ekselent prœgram woz provyded for our memberz and utherz atending the Edeukaishonal Konferens held in the erli daiz ov Janeuari at the Euniversiti ov London. It shood hav draun a larj audiens, and wood hav dun so if the organyzerz ov the Konferens had not tryd tu maik a kwort gœ intu a pynt pot. Three uther meetingz wer gœing on at the saim tym az ourz. Tu maik up for this we hav arainjd that a verbaitim report ov the speechez shal be inklooded in the printed report ov the Konferens, and we shal be hapi tu send eni member hoo dezyrz it a kopi ov this report for 1s. 6d., pœst free.

Az our spais iz striktli limited we shal kontent ourselvz with a breef akount ov the proseedingz. The chair woz taiken by Mr. WALTER RIPPMANN, hoo gaiv sum akount ov the yeer'z werk. He woz aibel tu report that inkreesing interest woz being shœn in the moovment for speling reform. Elokwent testimoni ov this woz aforded by the fakt that inkwyriz adrest tu the ofis wer 50 per sent. mor neumerus in 1916 than in 1915 ; and thair had aulso been a gratifying inkrees in the number ov memberz. Referens woz maid tu a remarkabli strong list ov suporterz ov speling reform that had been printed and woz distribeuted at the meeting. This had been apended tu the leter adrest tu the " Reconstruction Committee " apointed by the Guvernment, which apeerz on anuther paij ov this iseu. Mr. Rippmann then dwelt on the need ov mor adekwait teeching ov the muther tung, with partikeular emfasis on the importans ov imparting good speech, and shœd that this iz wonted, not œnli for the perposez ov sœshal interkors, but aulso for the apreeshiaishon ov literateur. This atenshon tu the spœken langwij wood inevitabli akumpani the introdukshon ov a rashonal speling, which wood aulso leed tu the substiteushon ov edeukaishonali sound methodz ov teeching reeding and ryting for the pervershon ov the reezoning pouerz which rezults from the prezent irashonal speling.

The Rev. W. EMERY BARNES, D.D. Cambridge, staited the reezonz which had led him tu suport speling reform. Thai wer baist on hiz ekspeeriens ov the difikultiz which the konvenshonal speling prezents tu naitiv and forin lernerz. He erjd that nou woz the tym tu pres for this reform, and that aul edeukaited peepel shood doo whot thai kood tu help it on. Eeven if thai did not adopt the skeem ov the Sosyeti az a hœl,

thai myt maik eus ov sertin simplifikaishonz in thair korespondens, such az "hav, giv, liv, gon, shon, beleev, reseev." He konklooded by saiing: "We must be kontent ultimaitli with nuthing les than this: English speling a syens. Nuthing too much, nuthing too litel, but eech sound ov our langwij properli eksprest, az simpli and az shortli az posibel, bekauz œnli so kan it aanser the test ov syens."

Mis BURSTALL, M.A., Hed Mistres ov the Manchester Hy Skool for Gerlz, diskust the kwestion, "Whot kan the Skoolz doo?" Prezent kondishonz rekwyrd that the konvenshonal speling shood be taut, and taut thurœli; but at the saim tym teecherz shood deplor the waist ov tym involvd, and stait eksplisitli and kleerli thair regret at being oblyjd tu poot this berden on thair peupilz. In this wai teecherz wood simultainiusli satisfy the eksternal demaand for whot woz kauld a good speling, thair œn profeshonal konshens, and thair dezyr tu be at wun with thœz thai taut in the akwyrment ov nolej and the diskuveri ov trooth. At the saim tym thai wood be konverting the skool populaishon ov the prezent, hoo wood soon form the publik ov the feuteur, tu the prinsipelz ov speling reform. Mis Burstall then dwelt on the important konsekwensez ov introdeusing the studi ov English fonetiks in our skoolz, which woz bound in tym tu inflooens the veuz ov the teecherz ov English, hoo wer stil too ofen inklynd tu adopt a reakshonari atiteud. She aulso sujested the drauing up ov a list ov werdz in a simplifyd speling which myt be rekomended for imeediait adopshon, and which shood be submited tu the Bord ov Edeukaishon and tu Egzamining Bodiz for thair aprooval, so that no wun euzing them wood be handikapt in egzaminaishonz, ets. She instanst such spelingz az "plow, tho, theater, labor," and aulso "program" (cf. telegram), "omelet" (cf. quartet), "rime, dout, wagon, woolen," and fynal *t* in such partisipelz az "wisht, dropt."

Dr. R. W. MACAN, Maaster ov Euniversiti Kolej, Oxford, delt in a konvinsing and elokwent maner with the Impeerial aspekts ov speling reform. He shœd the vaast spred ov the English langwij, and the draubaks tu its stil mor ekstensiv eus that arœz from the kaiotik speling. He kwœted the rezoleushon paast at the "Imperial Education Conference" in 1911 (it iz given on paij 4), and gaiv the rezults ov hiz inkwyriz az tu whot had so far been acheevd in the dominionz beyond the seez. Prœgres so far had sertinli not been veri grait; it woz kleer that a strong leed must be given by our Guvernment. Dr. Macan'z konklooding werdz wer: "A kais haz been maid out not meerli in the interests ov the Simplifyd Speling Sosyeti or ov this kuntri, but in the interests ov the chyldhood and the manhood ov the hœl Empyr, for a Guvernment Komishon ov Eksperts tu inkwyr intu this hœl kwestion and tu bring out a rashonal sistem. We mai saifli trust, eeven tho we mai not aproov in aul detailz ov the partikeular sistem which mai ultimaitli be chœzen, that it wil be infinitli beter than the kaios, anarki, and ekstravagans ov the prezent sistem—or wont ov it."

Prof. M. V. TROFIMOV, King'z Kolej, London, konsiderd the problem az a Russian hoo iz ankshus tu bring about klœser relaishonz between hiz kuntri and ourz. He kompaird the relativ difikulti ov Russian and ov English, and eksprest the veu that it woz mor lykli that a larj number ov hiz kuntrimen wood lern English than that Russian wood be veri wydli taiken up in this kuntri. That being the kais, he deplord the servyval ov the œnli grait difikulti that konfrunted a Russian in lerning English—naimli, the speling. He kwœted a heumorus akount ov hou the English langwij kaim tu be such az it iz: "John Bull woz asleep when God kaim doun tu distribeut gifts ov langwijez tu the naishonz. On hiz awaikening, John Bull woz serpryzd tu heer uther peepel tauking whyl he himself woz speechles. In the kors ov tym he pikt up a number ov werdz from diferent speekerz, and gradeuali developt a pouerfool langwij from the borœd stok. Wun kan stil rekognyz the orijinal staitus ov John Bull'z lingwistik welth, but the riten form ov hiz speech givz no kee tu the akteual soundz. Being a man ov a rezervd naiteur, John Bull maid the speling ov English an obstakel tu gaining an insyt intu hiz thauts and feelingz." Prof. Trofimov staited that English woz about tu be introdeust az an obligatori subjekt in aul sekondari skoolz in Russia, and sed he felt shoor that the introdukshon ov a reformd speling wood improov and strengthen ferther the pozishon ov the English langwij in hiz kuntri.

Dr. G. B. Hunter, ov Newcastle, woz tu hav spœken on the komershal aspekt ov speling reform, but woz unforteunaitli prevented from atending the meeting. Tu maik up for this thair woz an interesting kontribeushon from Mr. A. P. GRAVES, hoo for therti-fyv yeerz woz a Guvernment Inspektor ov Skoolz. He spœk ernestli and feelingli ov the teribel waist ov tym in teeching the konvenshonal speling in elementari skoolz, and on the indiferent rezults sekeurd in the spœken langwij. He gaiv hiz suport tu preevius speekerz by emfasyzing the advaantijez which a rashonal speling wood konfer on our Alyz, and on uther forinerz hoo dezyr tu lern our langwij.

The CHAIRMAN braut the proseedingz tu an end by breefli deeling with sum points which Dr. Hunter wood hav been lykli tu tuch upon.

OUR APEEL TU THE GUVERNMENT.

To the Secretary of the Reconstruction Committee, 6A Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.

DEAR SIR,—The Simplified Spelling Society has for the past eight years urged the importance of a reform of the English spelling. Two years ago it was decided to promote a Petition for a Royal Commission to deal with this subject, but by establishing the Reconstruction Committee the Government has provided other means of considering suggestions for reform, and this Society claims that the reform of English spelling is eminently one that merits the practical consideration of the Committee.

If we adopted a rational spelling—that is, a reasonably consistent representation of good spoken English:

1. We should save at least a year in the education time of our children—a year that is much needed for the teaching of intrinsically valuable subjects.

2. We should be able to teach this essential subject in a reasonable and educative way, which would not necessitate the memorizing of inconsistently spelled words nor inculcate wrong ideas.

3. We should secure clearer, better speech; for good speech would be the best preparation for correct spelling, and the spelling would be a constant reminder of good speech.

4. The speech training involved would facilitate the acquisition of foreign languages.

5. The difficult work of teaching defective children would be appreciably lightened.

It is particularly in the elementary schools that the grave drawbacks of the present spelling are felt, and teachers in these schools are eager for the reform. There is reason to believe that the rapid acquisition of the spelling by Italian children is due not to superior skill on the part of the teachers or to superior intelligence on the part of the children, but rather to the rational character of the Italian spelling.

The advantages to be derived from adopting a rational spelling would, however, not be confined to our own children. Many of our fellow-subjects are of alien race, and it is of great importance that they should learn our language. The task of bringing education to India, for instance, is much complicated by the difficulties presented by our spelling, which are all the greater for those who do not start with a knowledge of the spoken language. The movement for spelling reform has received support from all parts of the Empire where English is taught as a foreign language.

That English should be known to every member of the Empire is a justifiable ambition; and we may also look forward to its increasing use in the rest of the world. There is evidence to show that the desire to study English is becoming more common in almost all foreign countries. Its commercial value and the richness of its literature, together with the simplicity of its grammar, explain its popularity, which, as all teachers abroad are agreed, would be vastly increased if the spelling gave real guidance to the pronunciation, instead of presenting countless irregularities that have no relation to the spoken language. At a recent educational Conference Lord Bryce said: "If English were simplified, it would in a generation become the language of commerce all over the East, with enormous benefit to British trade."

The above considerations have convinced the members of the Simplified Spelling Society and many others who have signed the Petition that, to quote a resolution passed at the last Imperial Education Conference: "The simplification of English spelling is a matter of urgent importance in all parts of the Empire, calling for such practical steps in every country as may appear most conducive to the ultimate end in view—the creation, in connexion with the subject, of an enlightened public opinion, and the direction of it to the maintenance, in its purity and simplicity among all English-speaking people, of the common English tongue." If this was true before the War, we submit that the arguments for an inquiry into the question of spelling reform have now gained in force and urgency.

The Simplified Spelling Society invites the Reconstruction Committee fully to consider this important reform, and the Society will gladly place at the disposal of the Committee evidence as to the progress which the movement has made in the Empire and in the United States of America.—Yours faithfully,

GILBERT MURRAY,
President of the Simplified Spelling Society.
WILLIAM ARCHER,
Hon. Secretary.
WALTER RIPPMANN,
Hon. Treasurer.

[The Apendiks tu this leter kontaind a breef akount ov the moovment for speling reform, with partikeularz ov our Sosyeti, its aimz, and its aktivitiz, and aulso a list ov klœs on 400 suporterz ov the moovment. Kopiz ov this interesting dokeument kan be obtaind from the Sekretari.]

EKSPERIMENTS WITH SIMPLIFYD SPELING.

WE mai regard az a dyrekt rezult ov our leter tu the Rekonstrukshon Komiti the sankshon given by the Bord ov Edeukaishon tu kondukt eksperiments with Simplifyd Speling in elementari skoolz.

At the tym ov gœing tu pres the folœing skoolz had eksprest thair wilingnes tu undertaik eksperiments:—

King's Somborne Skool, Hants. Hed Maaster, Mr. H. C. J. Cooper.

St. Anne's Skool, Wandsworth. Hed Maaster, Mr. E. A. Bagnall.

York Road Kounsil Skool, Leeds. Hed Maaster, Mr. Ezra Sykes.

Kounsil Skool, Bramley, Leeds. Hed Maaster, Mr. Allen Chalmers.

Several Skoolz at Hetton-le-Hole, Durham.

In sum kaisez sertin formalitiz hav yet tu be seteld, but thair iz litel dout that eksperiments wil soon be aktivli karid on in diferent kyndz ov skoolz.

"Whot advaantij iz tu be deryvd from the eus ov Simplifyd Speling in teeching yung children?" mai be aaskt by sum hoo hav not had okaizhon tu konsider the mater. Our aanser iz this:

Thair ar two sets ov difikultiz kontronting the chyld when it enterz skool. It haz tu lern neu soundz and the wai in which the soundz ar reprezented. If our langwij had a good (that iz a reezonabli konsistent) speling, we kood sai tu the chyld: "Heer iz the syn for this sound and heer iz the syn for that," and so on for eech ov the forti soundz, and tu pronouns korektli wood be the cheef rekwizit for speling korektli. But our speling iz bad and kontainz meni feeteurz that ar not rashonal at aul —it prezents difikultiz that hav nuthing tu doo with the pronunsiaishon.

The saim iz troo ov French, and for some tym paast, in aul progresiv skoolz, the children hav been taut French at the outset by meenz ov fonetik transkripshon, folœd by a sistematik transizhon tu the convenshonal speling. Ekspeeriens shœz that children taut in this wai spel beter than thœz hoo hav been taut the konvenshonal speling from the begining.

The ferst thing tu doo iz tu teech good speech. It iz not tu be gatherd from the eus ov "good" heer that eni stigma atachez tu dyalekt; on the kontrari, we ar ankshus tu restor dyalekt tu its rytfool plais. But it wood be abserd tu maintain that wun hoo kan speek hiz dyalekt œnli iz not at a seerius disadvaantij in lyf or that for perposez ov jeneral sœshal interkors eni form ov English speech iz az good az eni uther. In praktis we fynd that some formz ov speech ar mor jenerali pleezing than utherz, and

when we " korekt " the speech ov children it iz with the ydea ov maiking it mor wydli akseptabel. Thair mai be no intrinsik beuti in the three soundz that ar groopt tugether in the werd " hat " ; yet we think it ryt tu aask a peupil tu substiteut them for " at," the dyalekt form ov the saim werd. Why ? Bekauz it wood ofend the eer ov the majoriti ov English speekerz if this werd wer uterd without the inishal *h*. Apart from this we rekognyz that sum speekerz artikeulait kleerli, and we ar aibel tu folœ thair werdz with eez and plezher. It must be our aim tu giv our peupilz a form ov speech that iz not œnli intelijibel without efort, but aulso plezant.

Let us remember, too, that vois training and eer training ar klœsli konekted. Unles eu kan speek wel eu kan not fooli apreeshiait the beuti ov speech.

When the chyld haz lernt tu speek kleerli we mai proseed tu let it ekspres itself in ryting. If the speling iz konsistent the prœses iz simpel enuf. Mme Montessori telz ov her litel peupilz in Rome, kuming from kwyt humbel hœmz, hoo " eksplœd intu reeding and ryting." Whotever thai wish tu sai, thai kan ryt eezili, bekauz the Italian langwij haz a good speling.

It iz just the saim in English if we euz a konsistent speling ; but if we euz the konvenshonal speling it iz aultugether diferent. Tu be shoor, we kan teech on " phonic " lynz, and that meenz paiing deu atenshon tu the children'z speech ; but we hav tu chooz our werdz veri kairfooli, selekting them not in the rashonal wai, akording az thai ar within the chyld'z sfeer ov interest, but in a hœlli artifishal wai, akording az thai ar spelt. We kan not euz " child," bekauz the *i* iz not pronounst az in " it " ; we kan not euz " mother," bekauz the *o* iz not pronounst az in " not."

Erlier eksperiments hav shœn that the children reed our *Ferst Reeder* veri eezili ; and the saim wil be troo ov the *Sekond Reeder*, which wil be iseud shortli. No neu werd frytenz them ; thai can pronouns it at ferst syt.

But wil thai not hav difikulti in akwyring the ordinari speling? Heer again, ekspeeriens shœz that thair iz no dainjer. In the Scottish eksperiment, tu which referens haz been maid in preevius numberz ov THE PYONEER, it woz shœn that aafter werking with simplifyd speling œnli for 10 munths, 4 munths' studi ov the konvenshonal speling woz enuf tu giv children az good a komaand ov the later az 19 munths' work had given thœz hoo okeupyd themselvz with it ekskloosivli.

Aul hoo hav taut on " phonic " lynz shood welkum simplifyd speling, which enaibelz them tu sekeur good speech without the disterbing inflooens ov an irashonal speling ; which nœz no uther than nateural limitaishonz tu the vokabeulari that kan be euzd from the veri begining ; which renderz it posibel tu redeus the tym rekwyrd for lerning the konvenshonal speling. Aul this we konfidentli klaim for simplifyd speling; and we thairfor invyt teecherz, in aul typs ov skoolz for yung children, tu giv it a seerius tryal.

THE LYN OV LEEST REZISTANS.

By JOSEPH HOGARTH (Johannesburg).

WUN or too points seem tu indikait that the whyt peepel ov South Africa regard the reform ov English speling with raather mor toleraishon than eni uther part ov the werld.

The ferst step woz taiken several yeerz agœ when the Transvaal Edeukaishon Department dekreed that the kombinaishon *-ise* shood be diskarded and be replaist by *-ize*, thus substiteuting wun form in plais ov the too formz that stil flurish in the rest ov English-speekingdom. The sekond step woz taiken laast August, when the Transvaal Teeching Asœsiaishon, throo the mouth ov thair egzekeutiv, eunanimusli rezolvd that the graitest edeukaishonal reform ov the prezent dai woz that ov English speling, and advokaited a modfikaishon ov the werst kaisez for a begining.

Fynali, thair ar meni hoo, remembering the reesent simplifikaishon ov Dutch speling, kan not rezist the lojik that whot iz good for Dutch shood not be bad for English.

So far the publik, heer az elswhair, haz shœn no jeneral dezyr for eni chainj; but this, aafter aul, mai not be deu aultugether tu prejoodis or hostiliti. Probabli the neu speling skeemz hithertu propœzd hav been too difikult, too drastik, and too unfamiliar. Haz not the popeular element been unkonshusli œverlookt and omited in thair konstrukshon? If so, then this œversyt haz at laast been maid good by the advent ov Simplifyd Speling. It nou œnli remainz tu iseu seutabel reeding books for the perpos ov giving it a thurœ tryal and ov probabli ading a finishing tuch.

The prezent tym, houever, iz veri unfaivorabel for presing its klaimz on the publik atenshon, sins the Empyr haz need tu konsentrait aul its enerjiz upon the Wor. In thautfool konsideraishon ov this it iz beter, then, tu refrain from aktiv propaganda til a hapier dai. In the meentym, houever, thair ar wun or too bywaiz lying wel outsyd the zœn ov wor'z aktiviti, and in the obskeuriti ov which sum humbel pyoneering werk myt be atemted, and in which the lyn ov leest rezistans wood be found. Wun ov theez bywaiz leedz throo the werld ov joovenyl literateur.

In everi wel apointed bookseler'z shop in South Africa—az in aul sivilyzd kuntriz—the children'z toi-book kounter plaiz a konsiderabel part in the lyvz ov yung children and thair gardianz. Ilustraited books in larj typ and beutifooli printed apeer in grait varyeti, and the reeding mater iz dezynd tu seut everi graid from the simplest tu the mor advaanst.

The Simplifyd Speling Sosyeti (fundz permiting) myt maik an eksperiment in publishing wun or mor similar books in Simplifyd Speling, and hav them ekspœzd for sail. Thœz children hoo hapen tu bekum the pozesorz ov such books wil soon diskuver that thai ar kwyt az eezi tu reed az thair skool reeding ov the koresponding graid. Az thai advaans thai wil maik the ferther diskuveri that thai never enkounter eni iregeular, aukwerd, or eksepshonal speling, which kontineuusli hamperz them in the œlder method. Thai proseed smoothli, having no barierz tu sermount, until a mœment fynali aryvz when the hœl nolej ov the skeem ov Simplifyd Speling daunz and ileuminaits thair myndz with a kompleet understanding ov the sistem.

This enlytenment mai oker at eni tym tuwordz the end ov the ferst yeer, or soon aafter. No ferther difikulti wood remain in ything reeding or speling. The hœl werld ov joovenyl literateur—provyding books in the Simplifyd speling wer availabel—wood nou be œpend, and thair eksploraishonz thairin wood œnli be limited by thair intelijens.

And this iz by no meenz aul. The chyld with hiz Simplifyd Speling book bekumz a mishonari tu aul hiz relativz, gardianz, and frendz, and the ferther the nolej spredz, the mor wil neu rekroots be gatherd in. Tho everi uther rœd be bard against speling reform, this bywai throo the feeld ov joovenyl literateur iz aulwaiz free and œpen.

Yung whyt peepel ar not the œnli peepel, houever, tu hoom the advaantijez ov a simplifyd orthografi wood apeel. Thair iz a larj blak and kulord popeulaishon in South Africa klœsli konsernd with it. Thai number about 5,000,000. Thair grait ambishon iz tu akwyr sum nolej ov English. About haaf ov them speek this langwij mor or les brœkenli, and about a kworter ov a milion ov thair children atend skool. The rezults ar, houever, veri poor, az the pairents withdrau thair children at the erliest mœment thai bekum eusfool for werk, and konsekwentli the averij atendans amounts tu œnli too yeerz.

Naitiv skoolz ar kondukted and taut in the naitiv langwijez. The men hoo dezynd the speling for theez naitiv langwijez kopid the best elements ov English speling, but kairfooli avoided its iregularitiz and inkonsistensiz. Naitiv speling iz thairfor simpel, and iz fraimd so that eech sound iz aulwaiz reprezented by the saim leter or leterz. Thus, the chyld, notwithstanding hiz short skool lyf, iz aibel tu akwyr sum litel skil in the reeding ov hiz œn tung. Theez children—at eni rait, the grait majoriti—ar aulso taut English, but nekst tu no prœgres iz maid œing tu intrikait speling.

This unfaivorabel komparison haz been in evidens so long that it shood not be difikult for theez peepel—or raather thair skool manijerz—tu realyz that a simpel speling wood imensli fasilitait a nolej ov English, and thai shood thairfor apreeshiait this method and welkum its introdukshon.

English speling never maid a skolar, and, besydz this, it iz not in the leest esenshal that the naitiv shood be ekspert in it. In eni kais he never iz. It iz beter, then, tu sakrifys this doutfool art aultugether, and devœt the hœl tym gaind tuwordz sekeuring a mor ekstended nolej ov English throo the meedium ov the neu speling. Its simplisiti wood maik it posibel for him tu atain a litel skil in reeding deuring hiz short skool lyf, and deuring the prœses he wood bekum familiar with meni English werdz and thair meeningz.

Amungst the abuv peepel, houever, thair iz a konsiderabel number hoo ar desended from British and naitiv pairentij. Thai klaim English az thair muther-tung, and euz it az thair everidai speech. Thair children euz the ordinari skool reederz in thair skoolz, but unforteunaitli the komplikaited speling duz not help and asist them az the simplisiti ov naitiv speling helps the naitiv. Had a simpel speling been availabel thai wood hav been on a level with the peur naitiv, and not at a disadvaantij az at prezent. The advent ov simplifyd speling, houever, oferz a meenz by which this disadvaantij mai be remoovd.

The kontinent ov Africa pozesez anuther reejon whair a simpel speling wood konfer a grait boon. This iz on the west kœst, and strechez 1,900 mylz from the river Gambia tu the Gaboon river, inklooding Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ashantee, ets. Liberaited slaivz from America seteld heer meni yeerz agœ. Thai braut with them and establisht the pekeuliar dyalekt ov English which thai speek, and which iz nœn az "Kroo English" or "Traid English," and iz jenerali understood and spœken throo-out this ekstensiv reejon. The dedli klymait maiks lyf veri short, eeven for naitivz. The saim kauz prœdeusez a veri chainjabel and restles dispozishon. Thai ar inkaipabel ov eni kontineuus egzershon ov mynd or konsentraishon ov thaut—espeshali thair children. Under such kondishonz it iz marvelus

that eni meenz ov edeukaishon shood egzist. Nevertheles, a feu Guvernment and mishonari skoolz ar skaterd heer and thair. Aultho the bulk ov the naitivz speek thair œn diferent tungz, yet thair iz a konsiderabel number hoo speek English az thair muther-tung. Theez later ar nateurali taut in English, but thair prœgres iz hamperd and handikapt by the atrœshus klymait, thair short skool lyf, iregeular atendans, and thair nateural inkapasiti for studi. Theez barierz ar fikst, and kan not be remoovd. Tu them must be aded a fifth, but posibli a remoovabel barier—naimli, the intrikasiz ov English speling—shoorli a wunderfool "kontrapshon" for the prevenshon ov nolej. Edeukaishon in such serkumstansez iz feutyl. But this feutiliti kood be konverted intu a sumwhot konsiderabel mezher ov posibiliti throo the meedium ov a simpel speling.

Az aul, or neerli aul, the uther skoolz reseev instrukshon in English, theez aulso wood benefit by the chainj. It thairfor rekwyrz litel imajinaishon tu forsee the grait improovment which wood spring from its introdukshon. Shood the realyzaishon ov this ever stryk the mynd ov sum mishonari in this benyted land, it kood skairsli fail tu fyr hiz ambishon tu be wun ov the pyoneerz in this grait reform.

Akros the Atlantic, deu west ov West Africa, lyz the koloni ov British Guiana. In regard tu this reform Guiana iz twin-bruther tu West Africa. Thai ar linkt by the saim kondishonz. Guiana swelterz in heet and iz plaigd with flyz. Its fœk ar the saim neegrœ rais, with the saim lytharted and chainjabel naiteur. Thai speek the saim dyalekt. The justifikaishon for a simpel speling iz the saim; but it iz much stronger, bekauz thai speek English œnli and nœ no uther speech. Thai strugel insesantli against heet, against feeverz, against "miskitiz"; and in adishon tu aul theez thair children strugel with the eksentrisitiz ov our speling.

In the fais ov such œverwhelming odz, iz it eni wunder that the hywauter mark ov thair reeding abiliti œnli reechez up tu "The cat sat on the mat," but seldom paasez beyond.

With Guaina thair shood be inklooded the British West Indian Islands, which kontain between too and three milionz ov English-speeking naitivz, and prezent sumwhot similar kondishonz.

Opozishon, hithertu so irezistibel in mor advaanst komeunitiz, shood skairsli fynd eni egzistens amung the naitiv peepel ov eni ov theez reejonz; for the simpel reezon that thai doo not cherish eni sentimental regard for the œld speling. It iz not thai hoo wood rezist, but raather thair edeukaishonal authoritiz, skool manijerz, and mishonariz, neerli aul ov hoom ar, perhaps, Europeanz. Wun or mor ov theez later wood hav tu be wun œver befor the dor ov admishon kood be œpend.

The mœst promising feeld for imeediait akshon wood undoutedli be found amungst thœz sekshonz ov the kulord peepel hooz muther-tung iz English. Meni mishonariz ar werking amungst them; and wun important objekt ov thair laibor iz tu provyd theez peepel with just sufishent skooling or teuishon tu enaibel them tu reed the Gospelz flooentli. Komplikaited speling, houever, plus short skool-lyf, plus iregeular atendans, ets., praktikali defeets that objekt. A rezult so disapointing must inklyn sum skool manijerz tu wish for sum chainj promising improovment. No beter oporteuniti than this kood be oferd for perswaiding them tu egzamin simplifyd speling; and ov thœz hoo doo sum wil be shoor tu diskuver the ekseeding rapiditi and shortnes which this "neu kut" prezents for maiking flooent reederz. And shoorli thœz hoo maik that diskuveri wil not be slœ tu taik advaantij ov it.

In the veri improbabel event ov the mor advaanst and mor sivilyzd komeunitiz ov English-speekingdom rezisting and rejekting this reform,

then no beter feeld kood be found than amungst the primitiv peepelz ov theez reejonz for demonstraiting and establishing the grait seupeerioriti ov simplifyd œver diversifyd speling.

But no praktikal aplikaishon iz posibel without a mekanikal ekwipment. This wood konsist ov reeding books and the Gospelz—aul printed in simplifyd speling and maid eezili availabel. The availabiliti ov the Gospelz wood eksersyz konsiderabel inflooens, sins sum mishonariz with skoolz under thair kontrœl wood be mor inklynd thairby tu maik eus ov the simplifyd reederz if thai kood aulso be suplyd with the Gospelz in the saim speling.

With enerji it shood not be imposibel tu get a feu eksperiments under wai. Thai wood establish definit and suksesfool rezults. Reformerz wood eegerli await the verdikt, fooli beleeving with the graitest konfidens that it wood prezent a kompleet vindikaishon ov thair faith.

"TH" AND "DH."

IN the *Ferst Reeder* we hav euzd the dygraaf *dh* tu reprezent the voist sound ov *th* in "the, this, that, thai, thair, breeth, then," ets., restrikting *th* tu the voisles sound ov *th* in "thik, thin, thing, think, breeth," ets. This haz led tu a good deel ov inkwyri, and we mai giv our reezonz for introdeusing this dygraaf in a book intended az a ferst reeder for yung children.

It haz serpryzd us sumwhot tu fynd hou meni thair ar hoo had never realyzd that thair wer too *th* soundz befor thair atenshon woz kauld tu it by our eus ov *dh*. The diskuveri haz given them a shok, and thai fynd it hard tu beleev that thair iz az much diferens between *th* and *dh* az between *f* and *v*, *s* and *z*, or *sh* and *zh*. This dygraaf *zh*, which we hav long euzd, haz arouzd litel kritisizm, if eni; yet it haz been chœzen on just the saim prinsipelz az *dh*—naimli,

s iz tu *z* az *sh* iz tu *zh*;
t iz tu *d* az *th* iz tu *dh*.

In teeching yung children it seemz wel not tu obskeur the distinkshon ov voist and voisles *th*. Why shood this be the œnli pair ov soundz (kompair *p* and *b*, *t* and *d*, *k* and *g*, *f* and *v*, *s* and *z*, *sh* and *zh*) in which the saim leterz doo deuti for bœth varyetiz?

But, when we konsider the kwestion from a jeneral point ov veu, we mai wel wunder whether it iz nesesari tu introdeus *dh* into our skeem ov speling. It iz troo that *zh* haz given no trubel; but then it iz by no meenz a komon sound. On the uther hand, *dh* iz ekstreemli komon, az our good frend Mr. Joseph Hogarth, ov Johannesburg, points out in a leter which we hav just reseevd. He ryts:

> Refering tu R. C. Eldridge'z book, *Six Thousand Common English Words*, which aulso inkloodz the Rev. J. Knowles'z list, I fynd thair ar 15,701 kaisez ov *th* in everi 100,000 werdz. Ov theez 14,338 kontain the voist sound (*dh*)—that iz, on an averij, everi seventh werd. The artikel "the" okerz no les than 8,131 tymz.

We agree with Mr. Hogarth that the grait chainj in the outwerd apeerans ov the speling rezulting from the jeneral eus ov *dh* wood not be kompensaited by the gain in fonetik akeurasi. Everi praktikal speling

kontainz, and must kontain, such kompromyzez. Aafter aul, the diferens iz hardli ever signifikant. We kood not euz the saim simbol for voist *b* and voisles *p*, bekauz thair presens ofen servz tu diferenshiait werdz, *e.g.* "bit" and "pit," "bet" and "pet"; but the œnli paralel kais with *th* iz in the werdz "thy" and "thigh," and that iz neglijibel.

But for the ferst instrukshon ov children and forinerz it iz wel tu maik the diferens kleer; utherwyz thai mai hav sum difikulti with "breedh, breedhz, breth, breths, trooth, troodhs, smith, smidhi," ets.

"OO" WUNS MOR.

MR. GUNDRY, ov the Wissa Skool, Asyut (Egypt), hoo haz so ofen sent us akeut kritisizm az wel az enkurijment, ryts:

> I see with plezher that eu shœ sum synz ov relenting in eur ambigeuus eus ov *oo*. When I send out a man tu kleer of the stœnz and brikbats that misteeriusli gather in our roodimentari footbaul ground, he invairiabli, with troo Egyptian inkompleetnes, leevz wun hevi stumbling-blok in the senter ov the feeld. This regeularli remyndz me ov the dubel funkshon ov *oo* in S.S.—the wun singeular kais in which wun syn iz aloud tu stand for too soundz. Shoorli this must be remedid. Ov the dygraafs sujested for the kais *ui* seemz tu me the best, but it iz not, I think, pronounst in Scotland lyk the short *oo*, tho it ofen taiks its plais. Yet I stil kontend that eni dygraaf iz by its naiteur unseutabel for a short prymari vouel, and thairfor that *v* hœldz the plais ov the best aulternativ. I hav maintaind its kauz for sum tym, and I kan not provœk a fyt. No wun wil stait an objekshon tu it eksept a veri vaig wun—az that it iz "un-English" or "not veri hapi." Kood eu not giv it a tryal, sai, on wun paij, that it mai be seen in akshon, and so drau the kritiks out? Personali I am konvinst that it wood shœ itself kwyt adekwait.

Let us stait the difikulti.

In eni praktikal alfabet, az opœzd tu a striktli fonetik reprezentaishon ov the soundz, mynor shaidz ov diferens ar neglekted, and it iz important tu reprezent œnli such soundz by separait leterz az serv tu diferenshiait werdz, az iz pointed out on anuther paij ov this iseu in the diskushon about *th* and *dh*. Nou the long and short vouelz ov *oo*, az in "food" and "foot," ar sertinli signifikant in sertin kaisez; it iz œnli the kwontiti ov the vouel that diferenshiaits O.S. "pull" and "pool," "full" and "fool," "wood" or "would" and "wooed," "could" and "cooed," and thair ar feu kaisez konseevabel in which wun ov eech pair kood be taiken for the uther: the kontekst wil jenerali maik it kleer which meening the werd bairz. At the saim tym we agree with Mr. Gundry that it is undezyrabel that a short vouel shood be reprezented by a dygraaf. We then konsider which ov the singel leterz iz availabel. The vouel leterz *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u* ar rekwyrd for the vouelz in "bat, bet, bit, pot, but." Ov the konsonant leterz the œnli wunz that hav a klaim for konsideraishon ar *v* (which mai be regarded az an œld aulternativ ov *u*) and *w* (which, az our frend Mr. Hugo Davis haz remynded us) iz euzd in Welsh for the short *oo* sound. The eus ov *v* or *w* with the valeu ov a vouel iz, houever, kwyt unfamiliar in modern English. Iz this objekshon such a veri vaig wun az Mr. Gundry sujests? If we euz *v*, ar we not then dooing egzaktli whot he objekts tu in

anuther part ov hiz leter—giving wun leter a dubel funkshon? Thair iz a klœs relaishon between short *oo* and long *oo*, but the relaishon ov short *oo* and the konsonant *v* iz by no meenz klœs; from this point ov veu mor myt be sed for *w*.

Nou for sum egzaampelz:

(*a*) The good boi stood on wun foot.
The gvd boi stvd on wun fvt.
The gwd boi stwd on wun fwt.

(*b*) Shood the boocher poot on hiz hood?
Shvd the bvcher pvt on hiz hvd?
Shwd the bwcher pwt on hiz hwd?

(*c*) He kood not poosh it œver if he wood.
He kvd not pvsh it œver if he wvd.
He kwd not pwsh it œver if he wwd.

Mr. Gundry wil forgiv us if the abuv sentensez ar not veri briliant eforts ov the imajinaishon, but he wil rekognyz that we hav chœzen fairli komon werdz in our egzaampelz. Thai giv us a number ov werdz that konsist œnli ov whot ar jenerali regarded az konsonant leterz; and such werdz ar felt by mœst peepel tu be "un-English." Perhaps the cheef reezon why English peepel speek foolishli ov Welsh speling iz the eus ov werdz maid up aparentli ov konsonants œnli. It iz foolish; but it afordz an indikaishon ov a raather strong feeling.

Ov kors we mai be mistaiken. Our reederz ar invyted tu giv the mater thair ernest konsideraishon. Perhaps mor ov them ar in agreement with Mr. Gundry than we hav hithertu beleevd.

NŒTS AND NEUZ.

The membership ov the Sosyeti nou numberz 2805.

N.U.T. Rezoleushonz in Suport ov Reform.

On paij 44 ov Vol. V we printed a rezoleushon paast by the Nottingham and Distrikt Braanch ov the N.U.T. We hav reesentli reseevd with plezher kopiz ov similar rezoleushonz paast by the Whitby and Distrikt Braanch, the Northampton and Distrikt Asœsiaishon, and the Norfolk Kounti Asœsiaishon.

The Abolishon ov Speling.

Dr. Wilfrid Perrett haz reesentli publisht Part I ov a book ov grait interest tu fonetishanz, entyteld *Some Questions of Phonetic Theory* (Euniversiti ov London Pres). Our reederz wil look forwerd with grait keuriositi tu Part II, which, so Dr. Perrett telz us, wil bair the sub-tytel ov *An Essay towards the Abolition of Speling*, and wil prezent a "Rectified Alphabet." We welkum Dr. Perrett az a felœ-werker in a good kauz, but ar kwyt prepaird tu fynd that he iz much mor radikal in hiz rekomendaishonz than we ov the S.S.S. We too look forwerd tu the dai when "schoolrooms throughout the Empire will not resound to the doleful litany of 'double-you eye jee, wig,' and suchlike incongruous formulae."

A real Pronounsing Dikshonari at laast.

That iz tu sai, not fansiz, but fakts; no theoryzing az tu hou peepel aut tu

speek, but a rekord ov hou thai doo speek—not imajinari peepel, elokeushonists, oratorz, and so on, but ordinari edeukaited peepel. That iz whot eu wil fynd in *An English Pronouncing Dictionary on Strictly Phonetic Principles*, by Mr. Daniel Jones, publisht by Mesrz. J. M. Dent & Sons at 6s. net. The pronunsiaishon ov sum 50,000 werdz iz given in the transkripshon ov the Internashonal Fonetik Asœsiaishon. Tu thœz hoo ar not familiar with it it mai be eksplaind that this iz a fonetik alfabet far mor wydli euzd than eni uther, and that it iz ekstreemli simpel. Meni ov our reederz mai hav kum akros it in lerning or in teeching French ; or perhaps thai nœ it from reeding Mr. Rippmann'z *Sounds of Spoken English, with Specimens*, ov which the saim publisherz hav reesentli iseud a revyzd and much enlarjd vershon.

"Ai" and "Air."

A korespondent ekspresez serpryz that we "euz the saim kombinaishon, *ai*, tu reprezent the vouel soundz in 'great' and 'care.'" He rytli points out that the vouel soundz ar diferent, and maintainz that we shood reprezent them diferentli. In aanser tu this we shood sai that when *ai* iz folœd by *r* its pronunsiaishon iz aulwaiz modifyd in this wai, and that konsekwentli we mai regard "air" az a kombinaishon ov leterz with euniform valeu. Thair iz no reezon why we shood not hav "trigraphs." Similarli, the vouel in "shoe" iz not the saim az in "sure" ; but we ryt them "shoo" and "shoor," again taiking intu akount the fakt that *oo* iz aulwaiz afekted in this wai when folœd by *r*.

A Good Egzaampel.

The U.S.A. "National Council of Teachers of English" (so we lern from the "Journal of Education") haz apointed a Komiti on American Speech, which nou iz esaiing tu organyz a "National Speech League," for which suport iz saut among publik speekerz and men ov afairz. Prof. John M. Clapp, ov New York City, iz deskrybd az the leeding spirit in the werk, and apeel haz been maid tu individeualz and groops in vairius Staits. Meenwhyl the "National Council" erjez teecherz ov English tu studi fonetiks and tu train thair voisez in the produkshon ov good, kleer soundz.

It Gaiv him kwyt'a Shok.

Wun ov our memberz sent a pamflet with sertin sujestionz for speling reform tu a jentelman hoo shal remain naimles. Hiz reply, houever, must be reskeud from oblivion ; heer it iz :

> I think it would be disingenuous on my part if I did not, while thanking you for the pamphlet so kindly sent, express my absolute abhorrence from the system it advocates, and my amazement that scholars can approve such results as are—I presume seriously—given under the head of examples! That any one who values English literature, or the classics from which it derives so much of its beauty, can approve what I dare not, and could not courteously, describe, will remain to me an abiding source of the profoundest amazement.

Thair ar meni thingz that myt be sed in reply tu this leter. Just think it œver, and then ryt a reply ov not œver 100 werdz. We shal gladli aword a pryz tu the wun hoo sendz in a reali teling aanser. Thair iz no need tu kopi the oratorikal maner ov the jentelman hoo iz so dredfooli horifyd and shokt, tho it wood doutles be ameuzing tu doo so.

A Valentyn.

"London Opinion," that sprytli weekli with a serkeulaishon eeven larjer than that ov THE PYONEER, had a nœt on our werk the uther dai—perhaps the laast plais in which eu wood hav lookt for it. The ryter, we ar glad tu lern, duz not aultugether objekt tu speling reform. He gœz on :

> All the same, it worries me a little to think that when we are reformed,

and "simplified spelling" has become respectable, this is the sort of Valentine that will be current even in the highest circles:

" Deer hart, I dwel 'neath yor majik spel
And rite tu tel yu this:
I luv yu so I hav maid belo
A kros wich meens a kis;
Yor par, the wiked Kurnel—wen, O wen
Wil he sa, 'Bles yu, kis and kum agen'?"

Not kwyt orthodoks S.S., perhaps, but it myt be wers, konsidering that it iz a ferst atemt. An interesting leson myt be given tu a klaas on this ekstrakt, if œnli the subjekt-mater wer beter seuted for treetment in skool.

At a kair-Komiti Meeting.

Hed Mistres (not a member ov the S.S.S.), deeling with the skool-leeving form: "This gerl iz markt 'fair intelijens' on the form, but she myt be deskrybd az mentali defishent. She kan ryt and spel wel, but seemz tu hav no reezoning fakulti."

Hed Maaster (wun ov our memberz): "Perhaps that iz why she spelz wel!" [Sum laafter in Komiti, which nœz the hed maaster'z veuz on S.S.]

Hed Mistres: "Her klaas mistres rekounts a strainj insident konekted with this chyld. The teecher woz aasking the klaas tu spel, but, on kuming tu Mabel, woz about tu paas her on akount ov preevius frootles atemts tu get eni aanser. 'I supœz you kan not spel the word *dictation*, Mabel?' sed she, and, tu her grait astonishment, Mabel spelt it. The mœst reemarkabel feeteur, houever, iz that from that mœment Mabel kood aulwaiz spel."

Hed Maaster: "The poor chyld'z reezoning fakulti must hav snapt kompleetli." [Much laafter in Komiti.]

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Aneual Memberz.

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LETERZ IN SUPORT OV SIMPLIFYD SPELING apeerd in : **Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald** (3 leterz), **Devon Gazette, Liverpool Post, Manchester City News, Manchester Sunday Chronicle, Newcastle Daily Journal** (2 leterz), **North Mail, Surveyor, Times Educational Supplement** (2 leterz), **Times Literary Supplement** (5 leterz), **Yorkshire Post.**

SPESHAL ARTIKELZ ERJING SPELING REFORM wer nœted in : **Liverpool Courier, Oregon Teachers' Monthly, Samaritan Magazine, Sydney Sun** (Australia), **Teacher's Work, Yorkshire Post.**

REPORTS OV OUR MEETING at the Konferens ov Edeukaishonal Asœsiaishonz wer publisht in : **Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald, Daily Chronicle, Daily Graphic, Daily Telegraph, Education Authorities Gazette, Educational Times, Glasgow Herald, Journal of Education, Nottingham Guardian, Pall Mall Gazette, Schoolmaster, School World, Sussex Daily News, Times, Yorkshire Post.**

EKSTRAKTS from the dokeument prezented tu the Bord ov Edeukaishon and Reekonstrukshon Komiti wer kwœted in : **Aberdeen Evening Express, Aberdeen Journal, Daily Graphic, Daily Sketch, Financial News, Glasgow Citizen, Glasgow Observer, Guernsey Evening Press, Huddersfield Examiner, Liverpool Post, London Opinion, Manchester Dispatch, Newcastle Weekly Chronicle, Pitman's Journal, Referee, School Government Chronicle, Western Mail, Yorkshire Observer, Yorkshire Post.**

ARTIKELZ MENSHONING SPELING REFORM apeerd in : **Evening Standard, Newcastle Journal, School Government Chronicle, Yorkshire Observer, Yorkshire Post.**

LEKTEURZ ON SIMPLIFYD SPELING wer reported, and komented upon, in the folœing paiperz : **Birmingham Mail, Birmingham Post, Incorporated Phonographic Society's Quarterly Journal, Schoolmaster, Western Morning News.**

FAIVORABEL REVEUZ ov the *Ferst Reeder* apeerd in **Child Life** and **Educational News.**

LETERZ and paragraafs ataking Simplifyd Speling wer obzervd in : **Devon Gazette, Evening News, Pall Mall Gazette, Sunday Chronicle, Times Literary Supplement** (3 leterz).

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IT haz been desyded tu publish THE PYONEER kworterli until pees iz restord. The Editor'z adres iz 45 Ladbroke Grove, London, W.11.

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